

Application Serial No. 09/886,791

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (currently amended:) A method for use in a collaborative system comprising the steps of

setting up a plurality of participants in a group to collaboratively communicate;
automatically collecting presence information of each of said participants in said group; and

dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of display windows including at least said participants, said collected presence information, and a set of mechanisms for a participant to use in conjunction with said displayed presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more others of said participants in said group for a particular collaborative purpose,

wherein at least one of said mechanisms including setting up one or more third party calls third party calls to initiate communication with one or more of others of said participants in said group for said particular collaborative purpose.

Claim 2. (cancel).

1 Claim 3. (original:) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said prescribed
2 mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a synchronous
3 mode.

1 Claim 4. (original:) The method as defined in claim 3 wherein said step of
2 dynamically displaying includes a step of automatically updating one or more of said
3 plurality of display windows.

1 Claim 5. (original:) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein said step of
2 automatically collecting presence information includes a step of automatically updating
3 said presence information.

1 Claim 6. (original:) The method as defined in claim 5 wherein said presence
2 information for a participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding
3 one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

Application Serial No. 09/886,791

1 Claim 7. (currently amended:) The method as defined in claim 6 wherein said set
2 of mechanisms includes at least email, chat, and voice call, or the like.

1 Claim 8. (original:) The method as defined in claim 6 further including a step of
2 maintaining said collected and updated presence information and a step of notifying said
3 participants of changes of status in said presence information for said participants in said
4 group.

1 Claim 9. (currently amended:) The method as defined in claim 8 wherein said
2 step of dynamically displaying further includes display windows for displaying at least
3 documents and uniform resource locators (URLs) relating to said collaborative purpose to
4 information to be discussed.

1 Claim 10. (original:) The method as defined in claim 9 wherein said set of
2 mechanisms further includes persistent chat and said step of initiating communication
3 further includes initiating a persistent chat session.

Claim 11 (cancel).

1 Claim 12. (currently amended:) Apparatus for use in a collaborative system
2 comprising:

3 means for setting up a plurality of participants in a group to collaboratively
4 communicate;

5 means for automatically collecting presence information of each of said
6 participants in said group; and

7 means for dynamically displaying a visual representation having a plurality of
8 display windows including at least said participants, said collected presence information,
9 and a set of mechanisms for a participant to use in conjunction with said displayed
10 presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one or more
11 others of said participants in said group for a particular collaborative purpose,

12 wherein at least one of said mechanisms is setting at least one up third party call,
13 and said means for setting up includes means for using said third party call mechanism to
14 initiate said at least one third party call to communicate with at least one other of said
15 participants in said group for said particular collaborative purpose .

Claim 13 (cancel).

Application Serial No. 09/886,791

1 Claim 14. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 12 wherein said
2 prescribed mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a
3 synchronous mode.

1 Claim 15. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 14 wherein said means for
2 dynamically displaying includes means for automatically updating one or more of said
3 plurality of display windows.

1 Claim 16. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 15 wherein said means for
2 automatically collecting presence information includes means for automatically updating
3 said presence information.

1 Claim 17. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 16 wherein said presence
2 information for a participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding
3 one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended:) The invention as defined in claim 17 wherein
2 said set of mechanisms includes at least email, chat, and voice call, ~~or the like~~.

1 Claim 19. (currently amended:) Apparatus for use in a collaborative system
2 comprising:

3 a call set up unit to set up a plurality of participants in a group to collaboratively
4 communicate;

5 a user agent unit to automatically collect presence information of each of said
6 participants in said group; and

7 a visual display unit to dynamically display a visual representation having a
8 plurality of display windows including at least said participants, said collected presence
9 information, and a set of mechanisms for a participant to use in conjunction with said
10 displayed presence information to initiate a prescribed mode of communicating with one
11 or more others of said participants in said group for a particular collaborative purpose,

12 wherein at least one of said mechanisms including third party call set up and said
13 set up unit including said third party call set up apparatus, said set up apparatus being
14 employed to set up third party calls to initiate communication with one or more of others
15 of said participants in said group for said particular collaborative purpose.

Claim 20 (cancel).

Application Serial No. 09/886,791

1 Claim 21. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 19 wherein said
2 prescribed mode of communicating includes at least either an asynchronous mode or a
3 synchronous mode.

1 Claim 22. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 21 wherein said visual
2 display unit automatically updates one or more of said plurality of display windows.

1 Claim 23. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 22 wherein said user
2 agent unit automatically updates said presence information.

1 Claim 24. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 23 wherein said presence
2 information for a participant represents prescribed activities of said participant regarding
3 one or more of predetermined instrumentalities and/or actions.

1 Claim 25. (currently amended:) The invention as defined in claim 24 wherein
2 said set of mechanisms includes at least email, chat, and voice call, ~~or the like~~.

1 Claim 26. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 24 wherein said user
2 agent unit further maintains said collected and updated presence information and notifies
3 said participants of changes of status in said presence information for said participants in
4 said group.

1 Claim 27. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 26 wherein said visual
2 display displaying further displays windows to display at least documents and uniform
3 resource locators (URLs) ~~to information to be discussed~~ relating to said collaborative
4 purpose.

1 Claim 28. (original:) The invention as defined in claim 27 wherein said set of
2 mechanisms further includes persistent chat and said set up unit further includes setting
3 up a persistent chat session.

Claim 29 (cancel).

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